Dear Howard, 8/4/72

Had to go to Washington today to get together with Bud and Jim Lesar on the Ray habeus Corpus petition and other things. It is going on six. We have just gotten home. There is one thing I want to be sure to get typed before other needs compel that I do other things.

Bud was a little later, Jim much later. Bud and I talked about various things until Jim got there. Lil took knitting with her and sat in the reception room in which the secretaries have their desks. She also did the photocopying that had to be done.

Bob Smith had a legal paper to get completed on his own case. Bud's partner Bill is handling that. I spoke to Bob briefly because I had taken some FBI reports Bob Woodward of the Post wanted and I asked Bob if he'd care to see what I have and make copies. He picked out three he didn't have and Lil copied them for him.

He spent most of his time working with Bill and later the secretaries. We were there until close to 1 p.m. While she was there should could not help but overhear a conversation between Smith and Cyril Wecht's secretary. She told me about it as we left. At our first stop I asked her to make a brief note of it to use as the basis of this. Apparently the secretary's name is Mary Beth and she and Bob are on a first-name basis. She called about 12:30. On Bob's end it came out that he would take care of Washington and he would get in touch with Dick Sprague and Perry Policoff, apparently for the war council. Lil was, of course, aghast that as crazy a one as Sprague and as ignorant a one as Jerry would conceivably be consulted for any serious purpose. In my own view, the same is almost as true of Smith.

But and I had discussed this briefly and not unpleasantly and I'd told him I had a general awareness of what was going on, had more misgivings than earlier (explained the time per unit bit on the negatives and prints alone to him), and told him that after the 9th and 10th my chief concern was in being in a position to do whatever might be necessary to be a fireman, if that would be necessary or possible.

He told me that it has been postponed, but he knew nothing further. So, when Lil told me the above I went back into the office from perhaps 10 feet down the hall. Told Bob that Bud had told me Cyril's examination had been postponed but that neither he nor Bud knew until when. Bob told me the week of the 21st. I asked him if Cyril still planned two days and he said yes.

I don't think comment is necessary. I find myself wondering, however, if Bob is to take care of "Washington" and that includes both Jerry and Sprague who are in New York, if this means no Sylvia and if it does mean others, like Lifton.

I shall not be spreading this around, as I have not spread other things. But if you are in touch with Dick you might let him know the kind of peoplefrom whom Cyril is willing to take advice, for I think it has a number of importances, the more obvious including his knowledge of the field, his discrimination and perahps his desparation.